

Introduction

Well, it is that time of month again. I take Model III in hand and prove once again that the pen is sillier than the sword.

Last month, a lot of people called me and said "I like your newsletter, but WHY wasn't one mailed to me?". The answer is simple. You didn't register your DOSPLUS. The amount of cards coming in has almost tripled, but 50% of all DOSPLUS' remain unregistered. I am NOT a mind reader. I also cannot pre-register a DOS. If it is sold through a dealer, I have absolutely no way of knowing where it went. Please, if you want this publication, send in your card. It is free.

In this edition we have some interesting topics, patches, and a new question and answer column. Our roving gossip columnist, Todd Tolhurst, has a piece about the recent Eighty/Apple Show in New York City. We have patches for the following:

- * TRANSFER (corrections from last month's typos)
- * BACKUP (all versions)
- * SYSGEN (3.4D only)
- * Percom controller boards (Model III only)
- * Steel belted radials

We hope that you have as much fun reading this issue as we did writing it. Bear in mind as you go that this IS the April issue.

If you have submissions for the newsletter, send them to :

DOSPLUS NEWS INFORMATION CENTER
c/o Micro-Systems Software
5846 Funston Street
Hollywood, FL 33023

Remember, we would like all articles to be sent in not only as printed matter, but also as a word processor file on a disk (to save me the trouble of re-typing it). Thank you.

Mark R. Lautenschlager
Editor

What is this thing called "TAPE/CMD"?
=====

DOSPLUS 3.4 and 4.0 systems contain a mysterious program on them called TAPE/CMD. The volume of questions coming in from our dealer network (and from individual users) about TAPE indicate that the manual was SORELY lacking in description regarding this jewel. Let's start with a bit of history.

When Mother Tandy decided to release the TRS-80 Model I, there was no such thing as disk drives for them. The only things that went 'round and 'round were the tires on your car. So they used tape. Now there are many kinds of tape, and Radio Shack chose to use audio cassettes (you know, the kind your "Dress for success" tapes come on). These are really fine for listening; UNLESS you are a computer listening for digital data. At that point they are only passable.

Tape based machines start user memory at the very beginning of RAM (4000H). They don't have to worry about silly things like an operating system. On the other hand, user RAM usually starts at 5700H in a disk system. This causes a problem for the disk user who wants to run a program designed for a tape system.

The program and the operating system will attempt to co-exist. Not for long, though. Shortly the machine will lock up and you will curse the DOS in 47 languages. But it isn't really the fault of the operating system. You loaded your code right on top of the code that was loading it. When you crash the code doing the load, and the load wasn't finished, the machine locks up because NO ONE is in control.

This creates the need for a program that will read in a tape, move it higher in memory, and then make a disk file out of it. That is exactly what TAPE does. But that is not the end of this morass. A great number of tape programs do not take well to being relocated to another area of RAM. They are "non-relocatable". Therefore, any truly complete tape to disk conversion will involve an "appendage" that will put it back where it belongs after loading.

Which brings us to our next point of law. Some tape programs are written in a manner to absolutely seek the various I/O drivers at their ROM locations. They could load in this address from the DCB, but it is sometimes simpler to do it this way. After all, from tape you certainly do not expect to have a DOS vectoring out your

drivers. Therefore, our complete TAPE program will also disable the DOS and restore the ROM drivers while it is in there moving code around. Ours does this.

The first step in going tape to disk is to load TAPE. This is done by typing :

TAPE

and pressing ENTER at the DOSPLUS prompt. TAPE will load in and clear the screen, displaying its own headers. Then you should load the tape program into TAPE's workspace. Do this by typing :

R programname

and pressing ENTER at the asterisk prompt. You MUST give TAPE the filename. It will not just load the first file it comes to. If the file is not there, it will continue to search until the tape runs out and locks up. The next step is to map out where the program currently seeks to load in memory. You do this by typing :

M

and pressing ENTER at the asterisk prompt. It will then display something like this :

```
programname
4300-45D2  4300-45D2
XFER=4300 OFFSET=0000
```

The first information is the program name. This is just to let you know that you are indeed mapping the program you loaded. The next information is in two columns. The left hand column is the file's original information. The right hand column is the offset information. In the example above, the offset is equal to the original because no "O" command was specified (note the OFFSET=0000 display). Now we have to think a little. We know that in order to load this program in, it will have to reside higher than 5200H in RAM. If you wish to be able to load this program with the LOAD library command, it must reside higher than 5700H.

Then program loads now at 4300H. Let's say that it is simply a game and all you are going to want to do is run it from disk. You only have to bump it up above 5200H. Since it loads at 4300H, offsetting it 1000H will load it at 5300H. This is a good figure, so let's do that. You accomplish this by typing :

O 1000

and pressing ENTER at the asterisk prompt. The asterisk will be re-displayed, so to check your work, type :

M

and press ENTER at the asterisk prompt (a duplicate of the previous procedure). The display should look something like this :

```
programname
4300-45D2 5300-55D2
XFER=4300 OFFSET=1000
```

Notice that the "XFER" parameter is set to the same thing as it was before. It will be altered when you write the file to disk, UNLESS, you specify an appendage. "XFER", by the way, is short for "TRANSFER" and refers to the program transfer address. This is the point in memory that the DOS will pass control to to begin execution after program load. It is often the same as the base load address, but doesn't have to be. It is also sometimes referred to as the "program execution point" and that is equally as accurate a description. The next step is to install this as a disk file. Let us assume that the program will not function if relocated (most won't, one absolute call or jump inside a program is all it takes), therefore we will need to write the file with an appendage. You do this by typing :

S programname/CMD-A

and pressing ENTER at the asterisk prompt. Please note that I have appended a "CMD" extension to the filename. TAPE does NOT do this automatically. If you haven't noticed by now, the DOS looks for this extension as the default when loading a machine language program. You can have a machine language program with a different extension and still run it (simply specify the different extension), but you may not execute a machine language file that has no extension (obviously, if you specify just the filename, it will append a "/CMD" and will not be able to find it). At that point you would have to use the RENAME command to put an extension on it. Having a default extension of "CMD" makes it easy because any files that have that extension do not require you to type anything but the filename to run it. This is pretty much the TRS-80 de facto standard. Once the asterisk has re-appeared, the file has been saved to disk. At that point, you are done. Exit by typing :

Q

and pressing ENTER at the asterisk prompt. Test your work. Type in the program name and see if it runs. The appendage should :

- (1) Load the program in at the offset address. In the above example, that would have been 5300H.
- (2) Restore the ROM I/O drivers. This removes all DOSPLUS drivers and replaces it with the same drivers as are used by the ROM and TRSDOS.
- (3) Block move the program from its offset address to its original load address. This crashes the DOS, but we no longer care because we have restored the ROM I/O drivers.
- (4) Transfer control to the original transfer address and then bows out, leaving you to your program.

This should result in your program executing as it used to from tape, except now it loads from disk (much, much faster!).

You can also use TAPE to :

- * Append relocatable modules.
- * Write a disk file to tape.
- * Re-locate a disk file.
- * Change a tape from low to high baud.

If you have noticed, TAPE has an "I" parameter. This is used to initialize TAPE. It does NOT automatically re-initialize when a program is loaded or read. If you have a relocatable module that loads at 5700H and one that loads at 9000H, you may load one, then load the other and write them both back to the disk as one file.

This is NOT a function which a novice will be able to make use of. For the novice, TAPE merely functions as a tape to disk/disk to tape transfer utility. If you do not understand what a relocatable module is, then you shouldn't be fooling with them anyway, so don't worry about it.

To write a disk file to tape, you would type :

L filename

and press ENTER at the asterisk prompt. After the asterisk loads in, signalling a correct load, you would type :

W programname

and press ENTER at the asterisk prompt. That writes the disk file out to the tape. After that, the tape would load as any standard system tape. Now, if for some reason you wanted to have the tape load in at a LOWER address than was normal, you would offset the file enough to bring it all the way around to the desired address. For example, let's say I have a file that I want to relocate from 5200H down to 4200H. I load it and then offset it F000H. To do this, I type :

O F000

and press ENTER at the asterisk prompt after loading the file. Then when I map the file's locations, I will see that it now loads in at 4200H instead of 5200H. When I write the tape, I must specify the "-A" at the end of the filename in order to write an appendage that will relocate the program down (yes, the same appendage system that moves one up also moves one down). Example :

W filename-A

and press ENTER at the asterisk prompt. Not hard. Next, let's look at relocating a disk file.

First you load it in. To do this, type :

L filename

and press ENTER at the asterisk prompt. Then, once the asterisk has returned to you (signalling the completion of the load), map it out to see where it sits now. To do this, type :

M

and press ENTER at the asterisk prompt. The same information as is described above will be displayed. Determine where you wish the program to load and then calculate how much of an offset will be required to move it there. For example, if I had a program that loaded in at 6000H and I wanted to locate it at ED00H instead, I would offset it 8D00H (because $ED00H - 6000H = 8D00H$). Then I would type :

S filename

and press ENTER at the asterisk prompt. Notice that this time I did NOT use an appendage. When I want to re-locate a file and have it stay there, I do not want any appendage moving it back down where it used to be. What

this means to you is that you cannot relocate a file that does not want to move. If a program was not written to be relocatable, then it will not be. TAPE does not (and cannot) make it that way. That is up to the programmer. The next and final item I want to cover is converting a tape from 500 to 1500 baud. This is easy.

Remember, this is only valid in the Model III. Model I user's do not have 1500 baud cassette I/O, so they don't have the option to change the baud rate in TAPE. First you load the tape file. Do this by typing :

R programname

and pressing ENTER at the asterisk prompt. If the tape is a 500 baud tape, I would have already had to do a :

B L

and pressed ENTER. That would have set TAPE into low baud operation. Remember, TAPE in the Model III defaults to high baud. After loading in the tape, type :

B H

and press ENTER at the asterisk prompt. This sets TAPE into high (1500) baud operation. Then type :

W programname

and press ENTER at the asterisk prompt. The program will be written back to the tape at 1500 baud. That brings me to touchy point. Will it work at 1500 baud? Answer : Maybe! Some programs do and some programs don't. Many of the "Model III" Radio Shack programs are nothing more than slightly altered Model I versions. They inhibit 1500 baud operation somewhere inside themselves.

TAPE does NOT, nor will it ever, alter program code as it is moving it around. That just isn't what we meant it to do. If a program doesn't do tape data I/O, chances are very good that it will simply load and run at 1500 baud. However, in the case of a program that reads and writes data to the tape, it may not be so easy. If a program doesn't work at 1500 baud, but it does at 500, don't tell me about it. We do not intend to get into zapping all sorts of tape programs to enhance their high speed operation. If it works at 500 baud and not at 1500, keep it at 500. One alternative. There are some programs (not written or marketed by Micro-Systems) that advertise themselves as 500/1500 baud converters. They may or may not work (I have never seen one). You may try those if you wish. We do not guarantee results, but you never know.

A final word -

There are two things that TAPE does not do that everybody keeps calling and telling me they want it to do and can't understand why it won't work.

One, TAPE does not load or work with BASIC files. It doesn't HAVE to. You can still CLOAD and CSAVE tapes from Disk BASIC. There is absolutely no need to have TAPE move them to disk. Please remember that interrupts must be ON to do high speed cassette I/O. This is the opposite of low speed. In other words, don't do a CMD"T" before 1500 baud cassette operation from BASIC. In all honesty, the Model III does it for you in low speed so you don't need to then, either. It is just a habit from old Model I days.

Two, TAPE does not, and will not, manipulate protected software. We do not encourage program piracy. Software authors deserve their royalties. But even aside from that, TAPE is designed to work with standard format tapes. It would get the program rapidly out of hand to attempt protected tape copies. This lets out about half the games on the market. If the tape is a machine language game, and it doesn't seem to load, it is probably protected and will never work. If you feel the need to copy your protected tapes, seek out a utility that is designed to do that. TAPE is not one of those. As fast as we program ways to copy what is there now, they will alter and invalidate our efforts. We have no desire for TAPE to work with anything but standard format, non-protected, machine language files and tapes.

I hope this helps to clear the air.
-Ed.

There's No Business Like Show Business
By Todd Tolhurst

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The 1982 Eighty/Apple Show in New York City was held on April 2-4 at the New York Statler Hotel, and Micro-Systems Software, Inc. was among the exhibitors this year. We'd like to thank all of our old customers that came by our booth to say "hello", and we'd also like to welcome all of the new customers that "came onboard" at the show.

For your information, I'd like to mention a few of the Micro-Systems Software-related happenings at the show. If you've ever attended a computer show, you know that they

represent a golden opportunity to meet some of the "big names" in the microcomputer business face-to-face.

DOSPLUS was well-represented at the show, with several of our dealers such as H & E Computronics and Stony Clove Computer Center (Stony Clove had their "Rhythm Box" for the TRS-80 going "boom-bah-boom-bah" in their booth) busily showing their wares.

Although PowerSoft did not have a booth set up at the show, Dennis Brent, Kim Watt (Kim was sporting a thoroughly Texan cowboy hat - a hazard of moving to Texas), and Renato Reyes were representing their company. PowerSoft is now a brand-new Micro-Systems dealer, and all of you Dallas users can purchase DOSPLUS, MicroCash, and other MSS products locally from the good people at PowerSoft.

Bob Snapp, the author of the excellent "Snappware" products for the TRS-80 Models II & III, hosted a dinner party on the evening of the second day of the show. In addition the whole crew from PowerSoft, Les Mikesell, the author of MODEM80, was there with The Alternate Source. TAS is another new DOSPLUS dealer, so Lansing-area TRS-80 users can look to TAS for the best in TRS-80 software from MSS.

Interestingly enough, Radio Shack did not come to the show this year. The Shack did have a booth the size of a battleship in last year's show, but nothing at all this year. As a matter of fact, during a visit to a Radio Shack Computer Center on 5th Avenue in NYC, the store manager seemed totally unaware that the single largest TRS-80-oriented show was happening 5 blocks from his store.

If "official" Radio Shack stores showed no interest in the Eighty/Apple show this year, Stevens Electronics, also known as Stevens Radio Shack (they're an authorized Radio Shack dealer) did have a booth at the show, almost across the hallway from our booth #10. Bob Stevens and Dave Kreines were manning the booth, and offering some of the finest in both Radio Shack and non-Radio Shack hardware and software for the TRS-80. Stevens Electronics is also a new MSS dealer.

Tom Vanderstowe of B. T. Enterprises, one of our veteran dealers, was showing off a new 20-megabyte fixed/removable cartridge hard drive. Although the drive itself is certainly useful, Tom felt we should give it a DOSPLUS operating system to really show off its capabilities. We warned Tom that we couldn't guarantee that we could provide a DOS for a hard drive we'd never even seen before, but he was feeling adventuresome, so we put our people to work on the system. Within 6 minutes (by

Tom's watch . . . but he was excited), DOSPLUS 4.0 was working on B. T.'s new drive. Don't start putting in your orders for this DOS yet, though . . . we like to take more than six minutes before we release a product.

Another dealer, Computer Applications Unlimited of Rye, NY was at the show again this year. CAU authored the M-ZAL Editor/Assembler for the Model I & III. If you don't already know, M-ZAL is THE way to go for the serious assembly language programmer. We know. DOSPLUS 3.38, 3.38D, 3.4S, 3.4D, 3.4 III and 4.0/a through 4.0/h were all written using M-ZAL.

According to Kengore Corporation, the producers of the Eighty/Apple show, we had an attendance of 12,000 people of which about 9,000 were TRS-80 owners. Personally, I think that about 11,999 of those 12,000 people stopped at our booth to see our 10-megabyte TRS-80 hard drive by Quality Computer Services housed in a clear plastic case, running under DOSPLUS 4.0/g. When you consider that the hard drive stores about as much data as 56 Double-density disks, you can understand why it was such a show-stopper. Of course, we also were demonstrating hard drives by MTI, VR Data, and Laredo, all running DOSPLUS 4.0.

That's about all for the 1982 Eighty/Apple show as it relates to MSS and our valued customers. We hope to see you there next year.

Patches (or "What's wrong with my system?")

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This is the portion of the newsletter I like least. Telling you folks about bugs. Bugs are interesting things. They start their life cycle as problems (kinda like frogs are tadpoles). Then they are "nawww, come ons!". That is when you look at what just happened and say "nawww, come on!". After that, they grow up into "stay up lates", and then they emerge as full fledged bugs.

How do you kill a bug? With a patch. So that is what I attempt to do here, kill your bugs. This issue I have a bug in TRANSFER, SYSGEN, and BACKUP.

TRANSFER -

=====

There is NO NEW BUG in TRANSFER. Last issue I had the patches in wrong. For those of you who have been patiently waiting for the changes, here they are :

Type : DISKDUMP TRANSFER/CMD.XANTH and press ENTER.

Then install the following :

Sector	Byte	Current	New value
=====	=====	=====	=====
01	4F	E554	D942
01	7C	E554	D942
01	93	E554	D942
02	14	E554	D942
02	44	E554	D942
01	E0	E654	DA42
02	21	EB54	DF42
02	3B	ED54	E142
02	41	F154	E542

Remember, these patches are for the Model III version only. Model I versions must be returned for upgrade.
Remember also :

Model III - EOF column of 128 needs patch.
EOF column of 122 is fine.

Model I - EOF column of 126 needs replacing.
EOF column of 120 is fine.

SYSGEN -
=====

The patch for SYSGEN is for Model I Double density (3.4D) only. It does not affect any other systems. When you sysgen a double headed diskette, the boot cylinder will be single density (as required by the ROM). Therefore, it should all be allocated (locked out) for system use so that you do not attempt to write to it and cause a major system crash.

However, currently the back side of cylinder zero is not being allocated and remains free for system use. Later on the system will attempt to write to the back side of the boot cylinder in double density and the whole place goes up in smoke. This patch will correct for that. After making this patch, SYSGEN will allocate BOTH SIDES of the boot cylinder.

The way to determine if you need this patch is simple. Simply enter DISKDUMP as if you were going to install the patch. Examine the first location. If the value there matches the "New value" column instead of the "Current value" column, then we have already made the patch for you before shipment of your DOS. Exit and forget about it.

Type : DISKDUMP SYSGEN/CMD.XANTH

Then install the following :

Sector	Byte	Current value	New value
=====	=====	=====	=====
01	42	07	FF

Remember, sector 01 is the sector NUMBER. It is really the second sector of the file. Sector 00 is the first record. All values are given in hexidecimal format.

BACKUP -
=====

There is an obscure but very serious bug in the BACKUP utility. There is little chance that any of you have encountered it, but there is still the need for it to be fixed. What happens (or doesn't happen) is this. If a cylinder contains BOTH a locked out granule and an allocate granule, the allocated granule will not be copied during a BACKUP. Most people who get a locked out granule will not use that disk very much. Even if they do, the odds on a locked out granule and an allocated one residing on the same track are very slim.

I found this one myself. Had me pulling my hair out for a good thirty minutes. You see, in DOSPLUS 3.3, if a sector was bad, we locked out the entire track. In DOSPLUS 3.4, we did not do this. We only locked out the bad granule. This was especially needed by the single volume double headed disk drives. In 3.3, when we were backing up and detected a locked out granule, we simply advanced to the next allocated track. In 3.4, it is still doing the same thing. If a granule is locked out on any track, instead of advancing to the next allocated granule, it advances to the next TRACK containing an allocated granule. This patch corrects for it. Please note that there is a patch for EACH 3.4 system. ONLY use the one that is right for you.

To begin type : DISKDUMP BACKUP/CMD.XANTH

Then install the correct one of the following :

Model III (3.4) -

Sector,	Current	Change
Byte	Contents	to
=====	=====	=====

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01, 7C:	92	93
02, 02:	92	93
02, 18:	92	93
02, 54:	92	93
02, 99:	E5 26 5D 6A 7E E1	CD A0 57 00 00 00
02, D9:	E5 26 5D 6A 7E E1	CD A0 57 00 00 00
03, 15:	E5 26 5D 6A 7E E1	CD A0 57 00 00 00
06, 55:	E5 3A 3F 5B 3D BA 30 02	14 3A 3F 5B 3D BA D8 CD
	E1 C9 26 5D 6A 3A 44 5B	A0 57 28 F4 BF C9 E5 26
	BE 28 0A 7D C6 60 6F 3A	5D 6A 7E F5 3E 60 85 6F
	44 5B BE 28 EB 14 18 E1	F1 AE E1 C9 00 00 00 00

Model I Double density (3.4D) -

Sector, Byte	Current Contents	Change to
=====	=====	=====
01, 77	90	91
01, F0	90	91
02, 13	90	91
02, 4F	90	91
02, 94	E5 26 5D 6A 7E E1	CD 9E 57 00 00 00
02, D4	E5 26 5D 6A 7E E1	CD 9E 57 00 00 00
03, 10	E5 26 5D 6A 7E E1	CD 9E 57 00 00 00
06, 53	E5 3A 3B 5B 3D BA 30 02	14 3A 3B 5B 3D BA D8 CD
	E1 C9 26 5D 6A 3A 40 5B	9E 57 28 F4 BF C9 E5 26
	BE 28 0A 7D C6 60 6F 3A	5D 6A 7E F5 3E 60 85 6F
	40 5B BE 28 EB 14 18 E1	F1 AE E1 C9 00 00 00 00

Model I Single density (3.4S) -

Sector, Byte	Current Contents	Change to
=====	=====	=====
00, CC	85	86
01, 52	85	86
01, 68	85	86
01, A4	85	86
01, E9	E5 26 5D 6A 7E E1	CD 93 57 00 00 00
02, 29	E5 26 5D 6A 7E E1	CD 93 57 00 00 00
02, 65	E5 26 5D 6A 7E E1	CD 93 57 00 00 00
05, 9D	E5 3A 30 5B 3D BA 30 02	14 3A 30 5B 3D BA D8 CD
	E1 C9 26 5D 6A 3A 35 5B	93 57 28 F4 BF C9 E5 26
	BE 28 0A 7D C6 60 6F 3A	5D 6A 7E F5 3E 60 85 6F
	35 5B BE 28 EB 14 18 E1	F1 AE E1 C9 00 00 00 00

To determine if your copy came corrected, enter DISKDUMP. Examine the first location specified in your version of the patch. If the contents matches the "New value" column instead of the "Current value" column, yours is already patched. Exit and forget it. If it matches neither, give us a call (I was more careful in checking them this time, so they are the correct patches with no typos!).

The patch is 54 bytes long. This means that you will be typing more than one line of code in DISKDUMP. Remember, DISKDUMP DOES NOT WRAP AROUND AT THE END OF A LINE. When we reach the end of a line of text, we do NOT advance back and down one line. We start at the beginning of the SAME LINE. When you reach the end of a line and modify the last byte, you will return to the first byte of the same line. Press the <down arrow> before you continue.

If you feel that you CANNOT make a patch this large, send me your Master DOSPLUS disk and I will give you a FREE upgrade to the corrected BACKUP. You pay the postage coming in, and I'll pay it going back.

Many dealers will be sent a "fix disk". This is a disk that contains the corrected versions and a copy/verify program. Call your dealer and see if he has one so that you do not have to make the patch. If he doesn't, have him call me and I will send him one.

When you are working with a DOS, you generally know about a bug for some weeks before you have patch. And you certainly don't tell of a bug until you know how to fix it. There is nothing more aggravating than hearing "Your system doesn't work and I don't know why...". I said all that to say this; we know of no more bugs in DOSPLUS 3.4. The system seems to be as reliable now as 3.3 was. So once we get past this BACKUP bug, we should have smooth running until 3.5 comes out in January of 1983 (more on 3.5 in the crystal ball department).

Misc.
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Radio Shack has a program called "Business Mailing List". You've all seen it. Some of you even own it. Well, it has a sort built in to it. The sort code is in machine language and is stored in the file "MLSRT". It is then read into a BASIC string variable and used via a DEFUSR statement. On the Model I, there is no problem. On the

Model III though, they try and protect it. They do this by using non-standard vectors for the sort program. We have some changes that will make the code work under DOSPLUS.

If you are a competent machine language programmer, call Todd Tolhurst in our technical department and he can tell you what you need to know. If you simply want a corrected version, send us a disk with a backup of your MLS program on it (so we know that you DID buy a copy) and we will correct it and send it back to you.

For those of you that don't know already, the patches in the last issue of the newsletter for the Radio Shack COBOL compiler were Model III only. We are still looking into the Model I patches. Probably next issue.

Radio Shack's "Time Manager" program seems to run good under DOSPLUS "as is". There is one twist. You must format the drive one data disk to 41 cylinders. Then it works well.

The new Model III VisiCalc Plus would appear to work correctly on DOSPLUS. Of course, the right arrow directory scroll function from the load (/SL) sub-module still will not be supported, but all other disk I/O should be fine.

Also under development, patches for PROFILE III Plus (the brand new one that isn't out yet from Radio Shack). And we have a friend of ours who is looking into patching the new as yet unreleased Super Scribes to work with DOSPLUS. We plan on supporting that program.

Radio Shack just released a new Model III FORTRAN compiler. It runs great as is under DOSPLUS. So now to run FORTRAN, all you need is the correct version for your machine right from your friendly neighborhood Radio Shack. Remember to get the very latest version.

For those of you still seeking the patches for steel belted radials that I mentioned in the introduction; April fool's!

- Ed.

New product announcements

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I really don't have anything new to announce. So I thought I'd turn this section into a bit of plug for some people out there who are writing DOSPLUS compatible software and producing DOSPLUS compatible hardware.

First there is Chuck Tesler at PROSOFT. His powerful NewScript word processing system is written to run with DOSPLUS. As a matter of fact, it comes on a kernel DOSPLUS. NewScript has just been upgraded to release 7.0, and Chuck is upgrading all old customers at a very reasonable rate. If you are looking for a comprehensive word processor, look here. We will be having a more complete overview of NewScript in the next issue.

Also on the word processing front, those of you Lazy Writer fans. The authors have been in contact with us and have been sent DOSPLUS 3.4 to insure compatibility with Lazy Writer. Lazy Writer comes set up for TRSDOS, but can be configured for DOSPLUS. For those of you who seek, this is another alternative to Scripsit.

On the subject of data base managers, Maxi-Manager from Exador is now at version A.3.4. This WILL run on DOSPLUS 3.4. A.3.3 would only run on DOSPLUS 3.3. Maxi comes on a stripped down DOSPLUS. If Profile's 17 hour sorts have got you down, take a look here. We will also have more on Maxi next issue. By the way, Maxi-Manager II is in Beta Test (I know, I have one), and it looks real good so far. It is going to be set up for the Winchester drives using DOSPLUS 4.0. If you have A.3.3 and want A.3.4 it will only cost you a couple of bucks. Drop a letter to Dale Kubler at Exador and ask what you need to do.

Did someone mention Disk Editors? Super Utility Plus version 2.2 just reared its head from Texas and roared at all you disk zappers. Spoke with Kim Watt (the author) in New York and he assures me that there is full DOSPLUS support built right in. Super Utility has just about every option you can hang on a disk editor short of writing a DOS. But the best part is this; you can use Super Utility to transfer files between Model III DOS'. That's right, copy from DOSPLUS to Model III TRSDOS disks. Also DOSPLUS/LDOS and DOSPLUS/NewDos80 (SU+ has limited NewDos80 support).

Looking for a disk Editor/Assembler? How about one that works three times faster than anything else we have seen, has macros, has conditional assembly, can assemble

from disk, and is fully compatible with DOSPLUS and the hard disks. You just described M-ZAL from Computer Applications Unlimited. It is without a doubt the best we have seen. We not only recommend and sell it, we USE it! Every DOSPLUS since 3.3 has been written using M-ZAL. CAU is located in Rye, New York. Check it out.

And briefly -

Compatible smart terminal programs -

OMNITERM - David Lindbergh
UltraTerm - John Burgan
SuperTerm - Instant Software
Uni-Term - B.T. Enterprises

Compatible monitors -

Macro-Mon - Advanced Operating Systems
TASMON - The Alternate Source

More data bases -

Profile 3.2 - Radio Shack
AIDS 3 - Meta Technologies

Compatible spelling checkers -

HexSpell 2 - Hexagon Systems
MicroProof - Cornucopia Software
Scripsit Dictionary - Radio Shack

All this stuff is good software by reputable firms. What sort of programs are you looking for? Let me know and I will publish what will work on DOSPLUS.

Hard disk manufacturers and their DOSPLUS 4.0's -

	DOSPLUS 4.0/a - MTI (California)
also	DOSPLUS 4.0/a - CompuTex (Texas)
	DOSPLUS 4.0/c - VR Data (Pennsylvania)
	DOSPLUS 4.0/d - Micro Mainframe (California)
	DOSPLUS 4.0/e - Laredo Systems (California)
Model I	DOSPLUS 4.0/f - Laredo Systems (California)
	DOSPLUS 4.0/g - QCS (New Jersey)
Model I	DOSPLUS 4.0/h - VR Data (Pennsylvania)

Compatible TRS-80 hard clocks -

TRS-Watch - California Word Exchange (California)
Tic-Toc 80 - BT Enterprises (New York)

And furthermore ...
(the "so there" department)

Last issue I announced the retail operation in West Palm Beach that is our authorized South Florida distributor. They are called Computer Room. At any rate, they have been deluged with technical questions about DOSPLUS from across the nation.

STOP IT!!!!!! RIGHT NOW!!!!!!

They are a RETAIL STORE. They are NOT Micro-Systems Software. They don't have the time or expertise to handle your questions. You have questions, call me! I'm VERY serious on this one. They will answer all your questions and take care of you in fine style as long as you are a local South Florida Computer Room customer. They didn't sell you your DOSPLUS and they really don't care whether you get it working or not! They take care of their own customers only.

We are here to help you from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The number is (305) 983-3390. Registered dealers now have an additional number to call. You can ask them your questions and they can call me and ask. That is often better because then they can answer the same question to somebody else. We care about our customers. We WILL help you. But lay off the Computer Room. Anybody violating this rule will be sent a special diskette that turns their TRS-80 into a dishwasher. But seriously, don't call them unless you are local and/or one of their customers. Call me. I'm here to talk to you.

I have been asked several things recently. Here are my replies : Yes, Yes, Never, and Your place or mine?

We are moving!!!!!!!!!!

Micro-Systems is moving into a bigger facility. Thanks to you folks, we have expanded until we split our building. The present 500 square foot facility just doesn't get it. We are moving to a beautiful new area in

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Boca Raton. There we will have 2750 square feet and much expanded facilities. Our new address is :

Micro-Systems Software Inc.
4301-18 Oak Circle Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431

The 983-3390 number is moving with us as are our toll free order lines. However all other numbers will change. We will be in our new office May the first.

Mail that is NOT addressed to the new office after May the fourth may be subject to a five day forwarding delay. Thanks for growing with us, we hope to be able to serve you better from our new home.

Crystal Ball Department
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Wow! Lot's of stuff this issue. Let's see.....

Micro-Systems just bought its first IBM Personal Computer. It broke three days after we got it, but it is fixed now. You can look for some of our stuff on the IBM starting next spring.

Micro-Systems has a Model II and a hard disk. Maybe a Model II DOSPLUS? We are thinking real hard about it. By the way, right now the closest thing to DOSPLUS 3.4 on the Model II is Bob Snapp's SnappWare. If you haven't seen it, you've choked. Check it out. It almost makes TRSDOS work good on that machine.

Speaking of Bob Snapp, we talked with Bob in New York and he has expressed an interest in doing his BASIC extensions (currently for TRSDOS and LDOS) for DOSPLUS. Now that would be neat. Maybe soon.

Also on the subject of maybes. Talked with Kim (Super Utility) Watt about his extended support utilities (currently for LDOS). He also is planning a DOSPLUS version. Lot of good stuff in that package. If he does it, I'll tell you next issue. Give you an overview and all that good stuff.

DOSPLUS 3.5? Well, we are planning it. Things that are without a doubt on the next version.

- * Alphabetical CAT
- * Wild card on CAT and DIR

